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AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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UNCLAS 8F

SUBJ

REF BK191557 KARACHI DOMESTIC URDU 191500--PAKISTAN: PRESS NOTE
ON 19 FEB BOMB EXPLOSION IN PESHAWAR

_PAKISTAN: _PESHAWAR _PROTEST _DIRECTED _AGAINST _REFUGEES

_BK211047

_HONG _KONG _AFP IN _ENGLISH 1031 _GMT 21 _FEB 87

((_TEXT)) _ISLAMABAD, _FEB 21 (_AFP) -- _SHOPS WERE CLOSED IN TH
E

BORDERING PAKISTANI CITY OF PESHAWAR ON SATURDAY AS GROUPS OF
STUDENTS PROTESTING AGAINST THURSDAY'S KILLING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
IN A BOMB BLAST TOOK TO THE STREETS DEMANDING THE EXPULSION OF
AFGHAN REFUGEES, REPORTS REACHING HERE SAID.

THE DEATH TOLL IN THE TRUCK-BOMB BLAST IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL
IN GARHI QAMARDIN ABOUT FIVE KM (THREE MILES) FROM PESHAWAR HAD
RISEN TO 14 WHILE 70 OTHERS, MOSTLY CHILDREN, WERE STILL IN
HOSPITAL. THE CONDITION OF SEVERAL CHILDREN WAS SAID TO BE
SERIOUS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL PAY COMPENSATION TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, BLAMING THE INCIDENT ON "UNSCRUPULOUS"
AFGHAN AGENTS AND FOREIGN-INSPIRED TERRORISTS.

BUT THE MOOD IN THE CITY WAS ANGRY AS PROTESTORS DEMONSTRATED
FOR THE THIRD DAY RUNNING AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES.
PEOPLE CLASHED WITH REFUGEES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EIGHT YEARS ON
FRIDAY ON THE ROAD LEADING TO THE SCENE OF THE BLAST. TWO REFUGEES
WERE INJURED IN AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE, PRESS REPORTS SAID.

SHOPKEEPERS KEPT THE SHUTTERS DOWN ON SATURDAY AS STUDENTS
CHANTING SLOGANS SET FIRE TO A JEEP AT PESHAWAR UNIVERSITY,
ATTACKED THE STATE-OWNED BANKS, STONED POLICE AND AFGHAN VEHICLES,
WITNESSES SAID. POLICE BATON-CHARGED THE CROWD AND FIRED TEAR GAS
SHELLS, INJURING SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS.

STUDENTS, WHO ARE DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF THE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE SECURITY, PLANNED TO HOLD
A RALLY LATER IN THE DAY. BUT POLICE EARLY ON SATURDAY REPORTEDLY
BLOCKED ENTRY POINTS TO THE VENUE.

(ENDALL) 211031 [REDACTED] 21/1100Z FEB 87

ACTION NMIC(1)

INFO JSI-3B(1) DB-2C2(1)
+SAFE

(U.6,7)

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